

United Nations

Daily Highlights

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FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- + Security Council decides unanimously on list of 23 candidates to serve as Judges on International Tribunal on war crimes in former Yugoslavia.
- + Bosnia and Herzegovina peace talks adjourn until 30 August as delegations return home to explain map reflecting recent discussions; Special Representative Stoltenberg to report to Secretary-General and meet with Security Council members next week.
- + Use of NATO air power in support of UNPROFOR remains a serious option, says Force Commander Cot; practice exercises and training to continue unabated.
- + Secretary-General launches appeal for emergency humanitarian assistance to people in southern Lebanon and west Bekaa affected by recent military attacks by Israel; cost of assistance estimated at some \$29 million.
- + Armenia requests Security Council meeting to condemn Azerbaijan's "policy of expanding its war against Nagorny-Karabakh"; says it would accept United Nations observers to determine situation on the ground.
- + UNHCR struggles to get relief supplies to refugees from Sierra Leone and other displaced persons in Liberia; 175,000 in rain forest said to be in desperate need of food.

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The Security Council today established a list of 23 candidates for Judges to serve on the International Tribunal on war crimes committed in the former Yugoslavia. It took that action by adopting unanimously resolution 857 (1993).

The following candidates were named in the resolution: George Michel Abi-Saab (Egypt); Julio A. Barberis (Argentina) Raphael Barras (Switzerland); Sikhe Camara (Guinea); Antonio Cassese (Italy); Hans Axel Valdemar Corell (Sweden); Jules Deschenes (Canada); Alfonso De Los Heros (Peru); Jerzy

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Jasinski (Poland); Heike Jung (Germany); Adolphus Godwin Karibi-Whyte (Nigeria); Valentin Kisilev (Russian Federation); Germain Le Foyer De Costil (France); Li Haopei (China); Gabrielle Kirk McDonald (United States); Amadou N'Diaye (Mali); Daniel David Ntanda Nsereko (Uganda); Elizabeth Odio Benito (Costa Rica); Huseyin Pazarci (Turkey); Moragodage Christopher Walter Pinto (Sri Lanka); Rustam S. Sidhwa (Pakistan); Sir Ninian Stephen (Australia); and Lal Chan Vohrah (Malaysia).

Speaking to correspondents, Madeleine Albright (United States), President of the Security Council, described the selection of the 23 candidates as a major step forward in setting up the Tribunal. She said the candidates represented the major legal systems of the world and also noted with pleasure the inclusion amongst them of two highly qualified women.

Ambassador Albright went on to say that today's action moved the Tribunal one step closer to fulfilling its promise to the victims, and the war criminals one step closer to prosecution and punishment.

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Today, at the Geneva talks seeking to end the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, Thorvald Stoltenberg and Lord Owen, gave each of the three parties a package containing constitutional papers covering issues they have resolved and a map reflecting recent discussions. The delegations will return home to explain the map and are due back in Geneva for a final meeting on 30 August.

Mr. Stoltenberg will visit New York early next week to report to the Secretary-General and to meet with members of the Security Council, according to a United Nations spokesman. Meanwhile, the Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations, Kofi Annan, will pay a visit to the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) area of operations from 22 to 27 August to review UNPROFOR operations in the field. He will chair a meeting of troop-contributing countries in Zagreb on 23 and 24 August to resolve outstanding issues concerning the deployment of additional troops in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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The use of air power in support of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) remains a serious option, and will be sought should conditions so warrant, according to UNPROFOR Force Commander General Jean Cot. General Cot said in a statement issued in Zagreb today that practice exercises and training would continue unabated, and that he would continue to coordinate closely with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), which was capable of delivering "this important military resource".

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today launched an appeal for emergency humanitarian assistance to the people in southern Lebanon and west

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Bekaa affected by the recent military attacks by Israel. According to the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, the estimated cost of the proposed assistance totals \$28,745,200.

The appeal, the Secretary-General said, addressed the short-term requirements of the affected population, targeting the most vulnerable, including women and children, the elderly and infirm. A positive response from donors would ensure the provision of assistance to those in need and would contribute towards the rehabilitation of public service infrastructure.

The attacks on southern Lebanon, which erupted on 25 July, killed 132 people and forced around 350,000 to flee their homes, many of which were destroyed or severely damaged. The Secretary-General sent to Lebanon a mission representing the specialized agencies of the United Nations responsible for providing assistance and addressing humanitarian needs, under the leadership of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs. This appeal, he said today, was launched in the light of the mission's findings.

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Armenia has requested an urgent meeting of the Security Council to assess what it calls the most recent evidence of Azerbaijani aggression against it, and to condemn Azerbaijan's "continuing policy of expanding its war against Nagorny-Karabakh to the borders of Armenia". In a letter to the Council dated 18 August, the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations said that the Security Council's refusal to condemn Azerbaijani air attacks last month could "at best be construed as a sign of indifference and at worst an act of encouragement". A clear condemnation by the Council could help to redress that imbalance.

Armenia said it was appalled by the Council's willingness in its informal consultations on 17 August to act on a "one-sided, biased" report from Azerbaijan. Armenia was ready to accept United Nations observers who would be free to determine for themselves the situation on its borders, the damage caused by Azerbaijani shelling and bombings, and the situation of refugees from Azerbaijan "in a Republic under four years of blockade from Azerbaijan", the letter went on to say.

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The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is urgently trying to get relief supplies to a Liberian rain forest where 175,000 Sierra Leonean refugees and displaced Liberians fleeing civil conflicts are in desperate need of food. Field officers have reported that malnutrition levels are critical, with children dying at a rate of 15 a day.

A lull in the fighting in Liberia has allowed relief supplies to trickle into upper Lofa County, 300 kilometres north of the Liberian capital of Monrovia, but transport difficulties have prevented full emergency deliveries to the area. The UNHCR dispatched an emergency team to Vahun village in July and last week set up a field office to coordinate relief aid and explore the

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possibility of airlifting relief supplies from Monrovia. The team reported that there were no more of the bush yams, palm fruits and cassava leaves on which the refugees and displaced people had depended.

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